```
> How can Lehigh Permanente Plant and Quarry have had a "long history of
> elevated mercury emissions" as stated by two members of NoToxicAir
> when mercury has not been recognized as a toxic pollutant for all that long?
> I'm also not inclined to put much faith in their claim of 24 BAAQMD
> violations in four years with 11 still pending when a Courier article
dated
> September 23, 2009 stated that Lehigh had no ongoing violations or
> pattern of violations according to District officials.
> My husband and I moved to Cupertino in 1959 when Lehigh was Kaiser
> Permanente Cement Plant. We have always been in favor of allowing it
> to continue as it has since 1939 when there were very few residents
> living here. Over the years, as people intermittently complained
> about dust, gravel, trucks and trains associated with production of
> cement, we have often wondered why city fathers allowed housing to be
> built close to the plant. Even more have we wondered why people
> failed to check out the environment before buying homes there. It
> reminds one of those who buy
near
> airports and then complain about the noise.
> Current complaints about the plant started with ostensible concern
> about
the
> effect mercury emissions might have on schoolchildren, but it turns
> out
that
> only one school in all of Northern California is in the supposed
> "danger zone". It has been monitored constantly for air pollution and
> has been essentially cleared. Furthermore, mercury emissions from
> cement plants account for only about 3.2% of the worldwide amount. We
> are all no doubt
in
> greater danger from broken fluorescent light bulbs that we are urged
> to
use
> in our homes than from mercury in the air.
> Rowena Bell
```